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27 April 1981

WORLD-WIDE TROUBLE SPOTSUSSR/Poland:

Moscow's most immediate foreign policy concern continues to be Poland. Aside from its concern over the political challenge from Solidarity, Moscow is showing great apprehension over fragmentation within the Polish party. At a key party plenum slated for Wednesday, the Kania leadership will attempt to channel strong reformist pressures from the party grassroots. Meanwhile, government talks with Solidarity--which began Saturday--seem to be going smoothly. [REDACTED]

El Salvador

The military has been stalemated for the past three months, but we have evidence that insurgent forces are planning stepped-up operations soon to bring pressure on the government for negotiations. Several Salvadoran and foreign leaders--Costa Ricans, Panamanians, Venezuelans and representatives of the Socialist International--also are pushing for the mediation route.

Cuba

The forcible return over the weekend of a small number of refugees to the US does not signal a massive new sealoft, but thousands are using third-country routes to enter the US. [REDACTED]

Lebanon

Over the weekend Syrian forces seized important high ground northwest of Zahlah that overlooks the Christian heartland all the way to the Mediterranean. If the fighting expands the Syrians will be able to shell the traditional Christian districts where many families of Phalange militiamen from Beirut have taken refuge. Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam is expected to visit Beirut on Tuesday and we may then know what Syrian intentions are. [REDACTED]

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Namibia

The Nonaligned states continue to push for a showdown at the UN. Non-aligned militants have drafted a series of resolutions calling for sanctions against South Africa and will probably call for a Security Council vote this week. A Western veto is anticipated, but African governments, many of which would be hurt by the side effects of sanctions, have had second thoughts about convening an emergency session of the General Assembly to call for voluntary sanctions. Without a peaceful settlement, the odds of a significant expansion of the Communist and Angolan-backed insurgency will increase. 25X1

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Thailand-Kampuchea

There is no indication that a Vietnamese attack is imminent, but the Vietnamese may be preparing to expand their operations somewhat against Pol Pot troops in Kampuchea. Small-scale incursions into Thailand will continue and possibly increase. Although Democratic Kampuchean troops still show no signs of being able to defeat Vietnam's forces militarily, Pol Pot's operations increased over the past dry season and continue to tie down Vietnamese troops in defensive positions. 25X1